

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

DR. PARRAN NOMINATED SURGEON GENERAL OF THE U.S.P.H.S.

THOMAS Parran, Jr., M.D., has been nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Hugh S. Cumming, M.D., as Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service. He has been State Health Commissioner of New York since 1930.

Dr. Parran received his medical degree in 1915 from the Medical School of Georgetown University in Washington, D. C.



Thomas Parran, Jr., M.D.

Following his graduation, Dr. Parran served as resident physician at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington and later accepted a temporary appointment in the U. S. Public Health Service in connection with field investigations of rural sanitation in Greenville County, S. C., Obion County, Tenn., and Clay County, Mo. He entered the commissioned corps of the Service in

March, 1917, since which time he has had a variety of assignments.

In 1926, he represented the United States at an interchange of public health officers held in Denmark. In 1925 he visited Europe for the purpose of studying methods of control of the venereal diseases. During the latter part of 1926, he was assigned as Assistant Surgeon General in Charge of the Division of Venereal Diseases of the Public Health Service. Early in 1930, Governor Roosevelt of the State of New York requested the loan of Dr. Parran to act as State Health Commissioner for New York. He has served in that capacity since that time.

For 10 years Dr. Parran has been chairman of a coöperative clinical group organized for the purpose of studying methods of treatment and control of syphilis. This group consists of the clinicians in charge of 5 large venereal disease clinics in some of the leading hospitals of the United States. He has been actively identified in an advisory capacity with a number of the volunteer health organizations such as the American Society for the Control of Cancer and the American Social Hygiene Association.

In July, 1935, Dr. Parran was appointed a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Research Council. He was also appointed a member of the Advisory Council of the Henry Phipps Institute of Philadelphia in October, 1935, succeeding Dr. William H. Welch, deceased, of Baltimore. He was Chairman of the American delegation attending the International Congress on Dermatology and Syphilis which was held in Budapest in the fall of 1935.

He is a member of the Albany County Medical Society, the New York State Medical Association, the New York Academy of Medicine, and the American Medical Association. He is the author of a number of papers dealing with public health and scientific subjects.

Dr. Parran if appointed will be the sixth Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service. He will be the first Surgeon General of the Public Health Service who has served as state health officer prior to becoming Surgeon General. Previous to assuming his duties as State Commissioner of Health in New York, his experience in state health work was extensive.

Dr. Parran was Treasurer of the American Public Health Association from 1931 to 1933, and Chairman of the Executive Board from 1933 till the Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in October, 1935, when he became President-Elect. He will assume the office of President at the Sixty-fifth Annual Meeting in New Orleans in October of this year. He has been a member of the Association since 1919, and a Fellow since 1923.

DEATH OF DR. NICOLLE

DR. Charles Jean Henri Nicolle died in Tunis on February 28. Born in Rouen, France, September 21, 1886, he was known and honored throughout the world for his contributions to public health and particularly for his discovery in 1909 of the louse transmission of typhus fever. Then, "for the first time in all the centuries of a one-sided warfare, with man forever in the open and typhus ever in ambush, the victim was in a position to organize a rationally planned and strategically sound defense against his historic enemy."*

At the time of his death Dr. Nicolle was director of the Pasteur Institute branch in Tunis, which city he is said to have made one of the healthiest in Northern Africa. His work on typhus fever began there in 1906 when the city experienced a serious epidemic.

Working first with chimpanzees and later with apes, he demonstrated that the typhus virus existed in the blood of patients and that convalescent serum conferred immediate though temporary immunization. His studies made possible the epidemic control of the disease through sanitary measures designed to destroy the route of infection through the body louse. It has been stated that if such control had not been possible the World War would have been brought to a standstill by one vast typhus epidemic affecting all European fronts.

Dr. Nicolle also made notable contributions to the treatment and prevention of yellow fever, undulant fever, Malta fever, measles, and other diseases. In 1928 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

In addition to his scientific eminence he was known as a graceful and entertaining writer. In awarding him the Carthago Medical Prize in 1922 it was noted that he was equally eligible for that fund's literary prize.

In his passing, the world loses another hero of the Pasteur tradition.

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION CHANGES NAME

THE Massachusetts Association of Boards of Health held its annual meeting in Boston on January 30, and decided at that time to change the name of the Association to "The Massachusetts Public Health Association." The large meeting, including gatherings of the three sections, was addressed by Prof. C.-E. A. Winslow, of Yale University, on "Opportunities and Possibilities in Public Health."

* Zinsser, Hans. *Rats, Lice and History*, 1935, p. 295.

New Officers of the Association are:

President: Paul R. Withington, M.D., Milton
First Vice-President: Ernest M. Morris, M.D., Fall River
Second Vice-President: Prof. Curtis M. Hilliard, Wellesley
Secretary-Treasurer: G. Donald Buckner, Needham

Other members of the Executive Committee are:

Henry D. Chadwick, M.D., Boston
 William O. Hewitt, M.D., Attleboro
 Charles F. Wilinsky, M.D., Boston
 Harold D. Chope, M.D., M.P.H., Newton
 L. Jackson Smith, M.D., Springfield

Representatives of the sections are:

John J. McGrath, of Salem, Board of Health Section
 Edwin H. Place, M.D., Boston, Laboratory Section
 Raymond S. Patterson, Ph.D., Newton, Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing Section

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

AT its Annual Meeting on February 22, 1936, the Southern California Public Health Association elected the following officers:

President: Dr. Raymond V. Stone, Los Angeles
President-Elect: K. H. Sutherland, M.D., Santa Ana
First Vice-President: W. L. Halverson, M.D., Pasadena
Second Vice-President: F. D. Sweger, Los Angeles
Secretary-Treasurer: Charles W. Arthur, Pasadena

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI DEPARTMENT REORGANIZED

THE Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Cincinnati has been organized from the former sub-department of Bacteriology. Thomas J. LeBlanc, Sc.D., C.P.H., and W. E. Brown, M.D., are in charge.

INTERNATIONAL NURSING REVIEW

PUBLICATION of the *International Nursing Review* has been resumed, after the lapse of a year. The management of the *Review* has been entirely reorganized.

It is to appear as a quarterly magazine, and will be published at the headquarters of the International Council of Nurses, 14 Quai Gustave Ador, Geneva—to which address subscriptions (Swiss francs 8 per annum) should be sent.

PERSONALS

HELEN M. HOWELL, R.N., has been appointed to the staff of the West Virginia State Health Department as Director of Nursing Education, a service being developed under provisions of the U. S. Public Health Service. The educational program as planned under the Virginia State Health Department will include institutes, group conferences, individual instruction for the public health nurses already employed, and the establishment of a training center for nurses entering the service.

HULDA A. B. CRON, R.N., Director of the Public Health Nursing Association, Evansville, Ind., member A.P.H.A., is taking a year's leave of absence to study public health at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

JOHN L. JONES, M.D., of Cleveland, O., member A.P.H.A., has been appointed Health Officer of Medina County, O., to succeed Dr. Thomas W. Mahoney.

DR. CHESTER A. BENNETT, of Strasburg, O., has succeeded Joseph Blickensderfer, M.D., of New Philadelphia, O., F.A.P.H.A., as Health Officer of Tuscarawas County.

HARRY K. GIDLEY, formerly connected with the Kellogg Foundation of Michigan, has been placed in charge

of the West Virginia WPA rural sanitation program, succeeding Fred T. Foard, M.D., F.A.P.H.A., who was recently transferred by the U. S. Public Health Service from Charleston to San Francisco, where he is Regional Consultant for the Service in a territory embracing 9 states.

LINWOOD FARLEY, M.D., member A.P.H.A., has been appointed Health Officer of Hanover County, Va., with headquarters at Ashland.

DR. WILLIAM B. KEELER, recently appointed Health Commissioner of Boston, Mass., to succeed the late Francis X. Mahoney, M.D., Fellow A.P.H.A., was the guest of honor at a dinner held in Boston in January and attended by 428 persons. Dr. Keeler has been connected with the Health Department staff for some years. Charles F. Wilinsky, M.D., F.A.P.H.A., who acted as host and toastmaster, will continue as Deputy Commissioner of Health.

DR. WILLIAM T. HARPER, of Fayette, Miss., has been appointed Director of the part-time health unit in Jefferson County.

DR. THOMAS W. MAHONEY, of Medina, O., Health Officer of Medina County, has been appointed Health Officer of Lucas County, with headquarters in Toledo, O., succeeding Dr. Milton R. Kukuk.

DR. CHARLES F. THOMPSON has been appointed Health Officer of Noble County, O., to succeed Dr. George M. Mason.

DR. HARRY G. SOUTHARD, of Marysville, O., formerly State Health Director, has been appointed Health Officer of Noble County, to succeed Dr. John D. Boylan, of Milford Center.

DR. J. WILL PAYNE, of Willow Wood, O., has succeeded Dr. Forrest R. Stewart, of Ironton, as Health Officer in Lawrence County, O.

Dr. ROBERT E. HARPER, for 10 years Health Officer of Lawrence County, Ala., has resigned to accept a similar position in Colbert County, with headquarters at Tuscumbia.

DR. PAUL M. THOMPSON, formerly of Spartanburg, S. C., has been appointed Health Officer of the recently created health unit in Henry County.

DR. WILL R. WILLIAMS, of Richlands, Va., was appointed recently to the State Board of Health, to succeed the late Dr. Joseph A. McGuire, of Norton.

DR. QUINTUS H. BARNEY has been elected Health Officer of Altavista, Va., and community, succeeding the late Dr. John Arnold Board.

DR. JOHN W. BOWDOIN, of Bloxom, Va., was recently appointed Superintendent of Public Welfare for Accomac County.

DEATHS

EDGAR SYDENSTRICKER, F.A.P.H.A., Director of Scientific Research, Milbank Memorial Fund, New York, N. Y., and formerly Statistician for the U. S. Public Health Service and Consultant to the Health Committee of the League of Nations, died in New York on March 19.

DR. CHARLES HARVEY ARCHIBALD, retired roentgenologist, of Asbury Park, N. J., died February 28, as a result of burns suffered in his X-ray work years ago. He was 71 years old.

DR. JOHN H. MOUNTAIN, member A.P.H.A., Health Officer of Middletown, Conn., and formerly State Senator, died March 7, at the age of 66.

DR. WILLIAM H. PETERS, for more than 15 years Health Commissioner of Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly a F.A.P.H.A., died March 13, at the age of 54.

CONFERENCES AND DATES

- Apr. 1-3, Canadian Section of the American Water Works Association, Hotel Royal Connaught, Hamilton, Ont.
- Apr. 8, Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Tuberculosis League, Hotel Kimball, Springfield, Mass.
- Apr. 9-10, American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, Boston, Mass.
- Apr. 9-11, American Association of Anatomists, Durham, N. C.
- Apr. 14, 15, Central Atlantic States Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Apr. 15-18, American Physical Education Association Convention, Hotel Statler, St. Louis, Mo.
- Apr. 22-25, National Tuberculosis Association, New Orleans, La. Meeting Headquarters, Municipal Auditorium; Residence Headquarters, Hotel Roosevelt.
- Apr. 25-May 2, National Boys' and Girls' Week.
- Apr. 28-May 2, 43rd Annual Convention of the Association for Childhood Education, Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.
- May, 1936, Food Industries Exposition, Oakland, Calif.
- May 1-4, 60th Annual Meeting of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo.
- May 3-6, International Society for Crippled Children, St. Louis, Mo.
- May 10, Mother's Day.
- May 11-15, American Medical Association Convention, Kansas City, Mo.
- May 11-15, 40th Annual Convention—National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wis.
- May 14-16, American Water Works Association—Pacific Northwest Section, Aberdeen, Wash.
- May 24-30, National Conference of Social Work, Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.
- May 24-30, American Association of Hospital Social Workers, Atlantic City, N. J.
- June 6-Nov. 29, Medical Exhibit, "Story of Life," in Texas Centennial Exposition, Dallas, Tex.
- June 8-12, Annual Convention of American Water Works Association, Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, Calif.
- June 10, Spring Meeting of the New York State Sewage Works Association, Lido Beach, L. I., N. Y.
- June 20-26, Canadian Medical Association, Victoria, B. C.
- June 21-26, Biennial Convention of the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, Los Angeles, Calif. Headquarters will be, respectively: A.N.A., and N.L.N.E., Ambassador Hotel; N.O.P.H.N., Biltmore Hotel.
- June 22-25, Annual Meeting of the National Association of Master Plumbers, Hotel Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.
- June 24-27, Seventh Annual Meeting, Western Branch, A.P.H.A.—meeting simultaneously with Canadian Public Health Association—Vancouver and Victoria, B. C.
- June 27-July 2, National Education Association, Portland, Ore.
- July 6-10, 29th Annual Meeting of the American Home Economics Association, Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Wash.
- July 6-11, The Royal Sanitary Institute, Southport, England.
- July 13-17, American Dental Association, San Francisco, Calif.
- Oct. 20-23, Sixty-fifth Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, New Orleans, La. Meetings Headquarters, Municipal Auditorium; Residence Headquarters, Hotel Roosevelt.